



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of August 4, 2009

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Romero, Vice-Chair Wolfe, Commissioner Valenzuela, County Manager Don Krupp, Department Director Sherri McDonald, Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

Commissioner Romero called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Board of Health Minutes** – Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the regular meeting minutes and the Public Hearing minutes of July 14, 2009. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES

Dr. Yu presented Commissioner Wolfe with two 2009 Senior Games Bronze Medals for her performances in the Singles and Doubles Bowling Enterprise in her age group. Commissioner Wolfe thanked Dr. Yu for her participation in the Games and encouraged all individuals especially those over 50 to participate in next year's events. Information about the Puget Sound Senior Games can be found on the internet by searching for "Washington state senior games".

3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD - none

4) PUBLIC HEALTH INTER-JURISDICTIONAL MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

Sherri McDonald explained the Public Health Inter-Jurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) is intended to facilitate the sharing of resources between local health jurisdictions. Developed by the Washington State Department of Health, the vision for this agreement is that each local health jurisdiction in the state will sign the same agreement creating a standard and uniform system for health department to health department sharing. The Public Health MAA clarifies issues not contained in other mutual aid agreements, for example: responsibility for salaries and liability coverage for shared staff and responsibility for replacing or replenishing shared resources. Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve, and authorize the Director of Public Health & Social Services to execute, the Public Health Inter-Jurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement to provide and receive inter-agency disaster assistance.

5) REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE AND RECOGNITION

Patti Swanson, Administrative Manager of Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS), explained that for the past seven years PHSS has been the lead county for a five-county Public Health Preparedness Region. With funding from the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, through the Washington State Health Department, local health departments were given resources to

plan for public health disasters. A regional team from Thurston County quickly became subject matter experts and facilitated local planning. The regional team also focused on facilitating local and regional partnerships among health departments, hospitals and tribes. Great strides have been made in preparedness in each of the five local health departments and partnerships have grown solid. Based on these accomplishments, the five local health departments made the decision to become a self-sufficient and self-sustaining preparedness region, thereby no longer requiring dedicated regional staff. Beginning on August 8 there will no longer be regional staff to serve the entire region. Marianne Remy will be the sole Local Emergency Response Coordinator for Thurston County. Ms. Swanson introduced Sammy Berg a Senior Environmental Health Specialist and Marianne Remy a Community Health Nurse both of which were an integral part of the regional team. Ms. Remy and Mr. Berg described accomplishments for the past seven years. Ms. Swanson then introduced and acknowledged other members of the Regional Team, Jeanie Knight an Epidemiologist, Annie Merritt an Education and Outreach Specialist, Jennifer Burns an AmeriCorps Vista Member and Randall Olsen an Environmental Health Specialist, for their significant accomplishments and important efforts.

The Board questioned and Sherri McDonald described the mechanism and protocol to issue a "Declaration of Emergency".

6) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sherri McDonald shared a letter of gratitude from a participant of the LiveWell six-week series workshop sponsored by the Department. The Board expressed their appreciation of the program as well.

Ms. McDonald reminded the Board the next Joint Board of Health meeting with Mason County is on September 22, 2009 at the Mason County facility. Agenda topics will be provided to the Board at a later date.

7) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu provided an update on the H1N1 Influenza activity in Thurston County and described the new reporting requirements for suspected or confirmed H1N1 cases and deaths of individuals suspected of having H1N1. She noted the Department website and information line (360-709-3080) is updated as necessary, multiple times a day if needed.

8) ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington

ATTEST:

SANDRA ROMERO, Chair

Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair

Date: _____

KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner